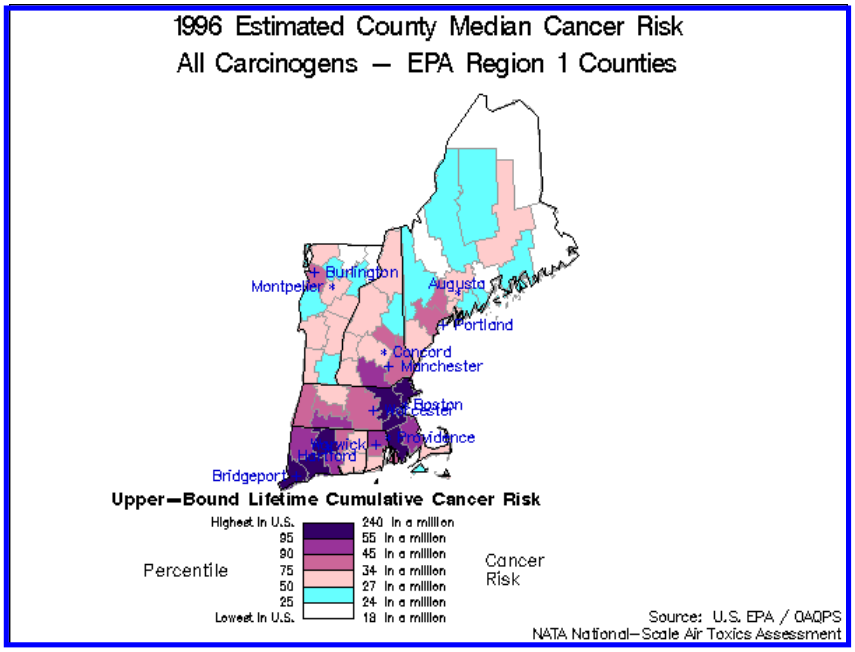
New England Results from the National Assessment of 32 Air Toxins



♦ In New England, 1,900 additional cancer cases per year, corresponding to 3% of all new cases, are estimated to be associated with exposure to air toxins.

♦ It is also predicted that other health effects, such as asthma and birth defects, may result from exposure to these hazardous air pollutants.

♦ This cancer risk map under represents the air toxic risks since it presents the summation of inhalation risks of carcinogens alone, and does not include diesel particulate and dioxin.

Twelve Plus One Air Toxins are Chemicals of Concern in New England

♦ Concentrations of 12 chemicals exceed health benchmarks in at least one state. Although, there is no EPA established health benchmark for diesel, people are also exposed to high concentrations of diesel emissions.

♦ Mobile sources represent the major emission category for 6 chemicals: acetaldehyde, acrolein, benzene, 1,3-butadiene, formaldehyde and diesel particulate.

♦ Background sources, such as natural or historic sources, represent the major emission estimates for 4 chemicals: carbon tetrachloride, ethylene dibromide, ethylene dichloride and chloroform.

♦ Area source emissions (such as drycleaners and chrome platers) are the major contributors of 3 chemicals: chromium, perchloroethylene and polycyclic organic matter.

New and Continuing Actions to Reduce Risks

EPA New England and the states are:

- implementing stationary source air toxic standards;
- improving monitoring and emission inventories;
- requiring cleaner gasoline;
- tightening tailpipe standards;
- assisting communities in comprehensive risk reduction projects;
- expanding diesel reduction initiatives; and
- providing pollution prevention assistance to significant emitters.